

WORLD STEEL REVIEW

Iron & Steel Statistics Bureau, December 2012



Crude steel production in the 62 countries reporting to the World Steel Association totalled 125 million tonnes in October, 0.5% up on the October 2011 total. The ten months total was 1275 million tonnes, just 0.6% higher than the same period last year. However, excluding China, the monthly total actually fell by 3.9%, with a decrease of 0.7% in the year to date.

Steel production in the 27 member countries of the European Union fell by 6.3% in October to 14.2 million tonnes; this brought the ten months total down by 4.7% to 144 million tonnes. German production actually rose by 0.3% in October, bringing the ten months total down 4.4% to 36.1 million tonnes. Production in Italy, however, decreased by 10.4% in October, while the year to date total fell by 3.6% to 23.3 million tonnes. French production fell by 7.2% in October, although the ten months total increased by 0.3% to 13.4 million tonnes. Spanish steel production decreased by 15.6% in the month, and by 13.1% in the year to date to 11.7 million tonnes. UK monthly steel production was 9.1% higher, while the year to date total was just 0.7% up at 8.2 million tonnes.

European car registrations published by ACEA showed a fall of 4.6% in October, with the ten months total down by 6.9%. The largest market, Germany, actually showed an increase in registrations in the month of 0.5%, while the year to date total was down by 1.6% at 2.62 million cars. In the United Kingdom, October's total was 12.1% up, while the year to date total increased by 5% to 1.77 million cars. In France registrations decreased by 7.8% in October, and were down by 13.3% to 1.59 million cars in the year to date. Italy's monthly registrations fell by 12.4%, bringing the year to date total down by almost 20% to 1.2 million cars. In Spain, the fifth largest market, registrations dropped by nearly 22% in the month, and were down by 12% in the ten months to 600 thousand cars.

In the rest of Europe Turkish steel production was 6.9% lower in October, but was 6.7% up in the year to date at 30 million tonnes, ahead of both the Ukraine and Brazil. Bosnia's monthly total rose by 20%, bringing the ten months total up 10.6% to 578 thousand tonnes. The Norwegian year to date total was 576 thousand tonnes, 18% higher than in 2011.

Turkey is now the eighth largest exporter of steel in the world just behind Italy with a total for the first nine months of 2012 of 14 million tonnes. This was 10.5% up on the same period in 2011. 45% of the total was deformed reinforcing bars, 28% up on the previous year, with semis (virtually all billets) accounting for a further 16.7% of the total which was 25% up on the previous year. Almost half of Turkey's exports went to Middle Eastern countries with Saudi Arabia and Iraq accounting for half of this total. Africa accounted for a further 18.6% of total exports in 2012 with Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia being the top three destinations. The European Union only took 10% of Turkish exports, almost 50% down on the previous year. Asian countries only accounted for 3% of Turkish exports in 2012.

Among the CIS countries crude steel production in Russia was just 0.7% down in October at 5.7 million tonnes; the year to date total, however, rose by 3.3% to 59.2 million tonnes. In the Ukraine October steel production decreased by 17.5%, bringing the ten months total down by 6.9% to 27.6 million tonnes. Kazakhstan's year to date total fell by 15% to 3.4 million tonnes, although the Belarus total was up by 3.4% to 2.3 million tonnes.

Steel production in the USA fell by 3.3% in October, bringing the year to date total up 4.2% to nearly 75 million tonnes. Canadian production rose by 2.9% in October, and by 4.7% in the ten months to 11.4 million tonnes. Mexican steel production increased by 6.2% in the month, while the year to date total decreased by 0.9% to 15.1 million tonnes. The Trinidad and Tobago year to date total rose by 2.3% to 523 thousand tonnes.

In South America, Brazilian crude steel production increased by 7.7% in October, although the year to date total fell by 1.8% to 29.2 million tonnes compared to last year. Argentinian production in October dropped by 18%, while the ten months total was down 8.7% to 4.3 million tonnes. Venezuelan crude steel production, however, increased by 9.6% in the month, but the year to date total was 21% lower at 2.1 million tonnes. Chilean production in the ten months rose by 3.8% to 1.4 million tonnes.

Among the Middle Eastern countries Iranian steel production increased by 13.8% in the month, and by 10.2% in the ten months to over 12 million tonnes. In Saudi Arabia steel production was 9.6% up in October, although the year to date total decreased by 1.6% to 4.3 million tonnes. Egypt's monthly total fell by 4.6%, while the year to date total rose by 2.2% to 5.6 million tonnes. South African steel production fell slightly in the month, bringing the ten months total down 10.7% to 5.7 million tonnes.

In Asia Chinese steel production increased by 6% in October, bringing the ten months total up by 2.1% to 602 million tonnes, 47% of world production. Indian monthly steel production increased by 7.3% while the year to date total was up by 4% to nearly 64 million tonnes. Japanese production, however, fell by 6.7% in the month, bringing the year to date total down just 0.4% to 90.2 million tonnes. South Korean steel production also fell by 7.1% in October, bringing the ten months total to 57.9 million tonnes, an increase of 2%. Taiwanese steel production, on the other hand, was estimated to be 25% lower in October, and 11% down in the year to date at 17 million tonnes.

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